

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough review of the present application, and respectfully request reconsideration in light of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 2-11 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 2-5 have been amended as proposed in the Rule 116 Amendment, except that amended claim 2 now further requires a metal blade (10a, 10b) which is an integral extension of said track (7a, 7b). This limitation finds solid support in the original specification, page 5, line 7. New claims 6-11 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled. New claims 6-11 find solid support in the original drawings, e.g., Figs. 1-2.

No new matter has been introduced through the foregoing amendments.

Amended claim 2 is not obvious over the applied references of *Reynolds* and *Pawlikowski* because the references clearly fail to teach or suggest the newly added limitation that the metal blade is an **integral extension** of the track. In the applied references, the terminal is formed separately and then soldered to receiving contacts, and therefore, cannot be regarded as an integral extension of the receiving contacts.

Amended claim 2 is not obvious over the applied references also because the references fail to teach or suggest the claimed **cutting edges**, as discussed in the Rule 116 Amendment field July 22, 2003, page 5, the first two paragraphs. The Examiner is requested to respond to this argument, or withdraw the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 2.

The 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 3-5 should be withdrawn for any of the above advanced reasons. The rejection of claim 3 should also be withdrawn for the reason presented in the Rule 116 Amendment, page 5, the third paragraph.

New independent claims 6 and 8 include limitations of claim 3 and are patentable over the applied references for the above advanced reasons.

New independent claim 6 and its dependent claim 7 are also patentable because the references, especially *Reynolds*, fail to teach or suggest circular curve extending for **more than 180°**. Compare Fig. 1 of the instant application and Fig. 11 of *Reynolds*.

New independent claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-11 include limitations of claim 6 and are patentable over the applied references for at least the above advanced reason.

New independent claim 8 is also patentable over the applied references because the references fail to teach or suggest that **the wire is received in the seat**. See Fig. 1 of *Reynolds*.

Claims 9-11 are also patentable because the references fail to teach or suggest the limitations of these claims.

As to claim 9, the applied references fail to teach or suggest that a distance between the adjacent ends of the cutting edges is **smaller** than the diameter of the circular curve. Fig. 11 of *Reynolds* appear to disclose the lower ends of “edges” 2 being spaced by a distance equal to the diameter of “seat” 24.

As to claim 10, the applied references fail to teach or suggest that a distance between the adjacent ends of the cutting edges is **smaller** than the diameter of the **inner conductor**. Fig. 11 of *Reynolds* appear to disclose the lower ends of “edges” 2 being spaced by a distance equal to the diameter of the wire’s strands.

As to claim 11, the applied references fail to teach or suggest that the **inner conductor is partially cut** by the cutting edges at the end of the insulated wire. See Fig. 2 of the instant application. *Reynolds* does not teach or suggest cutting the wire’s strands.

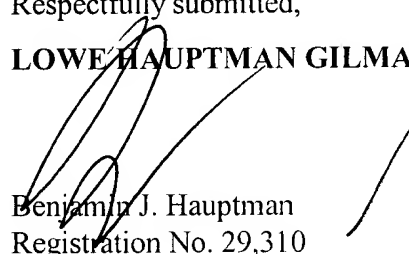
Each of the Examiner's rejections has been traversed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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